

to start a separate Shatabdi Express between New Delhi and Moradabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A suggestion has been received to start a Shatabdi Express between New Delhi & Moradabad.

(c) Introduction of Shatabdi between New Delhi and Moradabad has not been found feasible on account of operational and resource constraints.

Gauge Conversion

936. SHRI KASHI RAM RANA :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken up the conversion work of Ahmedabad-Veraval railway-line;

(b) if so, when and the amount spent so far on the project; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir. Gauge conversion of Rajkot-Veraval section of the suggested line has already been taken up. Ahmedabad-Rajkot section is already a BG line.

(b) Conversion work of Rajkot-Veraval was included in 1994-95 budget and an amount of Rs. 3 crs. is expected to be incurred by 31.3.97.

(c) During IXth Plan.

Development of Narrow-Gauge Railway Lines

937. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the region-wise details of narrow gauge railway lines in Bihar.

(b) whether any scheme has been prepared for the development of these narrow-gauge lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The length of narrow gauge railway line (route kilometres as on 31.3.96) in Bihar is 69 kilometres. Region-wise statistics of railway lines is not maintained.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) This line has been included, for conversion to Broad Gauge and extension to Tori, in the

Supplementary Budget 1996-97. Necessary clearances having been obtained, the work is being taken up.

Bangalore International Airport Project

938. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH
GAEKWAD :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Tata agree to build Bangalore Airport on BOT basis" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated February 2, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the terms and conditions and present status of the agreement;

(d) whether Tata have also agreed to induct the Airports Authority of India (AAI) as one of the equity holders in the Bangalore International Airport project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Committee has been set up on 21st February, 1997 to finalise the terms and conditions relating to the construction of a new airport of international standards at Bangalore. The Committee has representatives of Central Government, State Government of Karnataka and M/s. Tata Industries Limited.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Key Convention 1987 of ILO

939. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has ratified key convention 1987 of International Labour Organisation;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the major issues which ILO has to focus on the seven key convention and India's view point thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The 74th Session of the International Labour Conference in 1987 adopted the following 4 conventions concerning seafarers :

(1) 163 - Seafarers' Welfare Convention 1987

(2) 164 - Health Protection and Medical Care (Seafarers) Convention, 1987.